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BARON PISANI'S TREATMENT OF THE INSANE.

EXTRACT FROM THE JOURNAL OF AN AMERICAN SURGEON.

WHILE at Palermo, last year, I visited the Royal House for the Insane, under the superintendence of an illustrious and devoted philanthropist, the Baron Pisani. He is a stoutly formed man, of rather low stature, and probably upwards of fifty years of age. He has the finely formed head and features so common among the Italians, and a countenance beaming with benevolence, clearly indicative of the pure fountain within. For many years he has given his whole time and faculties to the melioration of that most unfortunate class of human beings, persons afflicted with mental derangement. The zeal, cheerfulness, gentle temper and perseverance with which he pursues this apparently discouraging and in some cases hopeless work, elicit the warmest admiration and respect, from all who are able to justly appreciate his character and his labors.

Possessed of an ample fortune and an elegant and refined education, he applied himself in his youth chiefly to music, and became a good composer. After some time he felt a predilection for the study of antiquities, and being surrounded with them in Sicily, and every part of Italy also presenting objects to occupy him, his progress was commensurate with his abilities, industry, and the facilities afforded him.

He never would marry, although his father, with parental regard for his happiness, strongly solicited him to that important measure; as he was afraid it might interfere with his plans and prospects of travelling.

Not finding in the study of antiquities or the physical sciences that exercise for the affections and moral sentiments, which contributes so essentially to happiness in a mind sensitive and alive to social sympathies, he resolved to take upon himself the direction of what was then truly called the Mad-House of Palermo, but which his humanity and unwearied exertions soon transformed into an orderly and comfortable abode for its once wretched inmates.

The management of this institution differs in some respects from most of the others in Europe, of which there are many now on nearly the same plan; one at Saragossa in Spain, Willis's at Greatfort, Arnold's at Leicester, the Friend's Asylum at York, the Esquirol at Paris, and one at Vienna on which great attention has been bestowed.

The miserable condition of everything belonging to the house, when the Baron first entered upon his duties, was indescribable. It was then the abode of desolation and wretchedness. He found there a few squalid forlorn beings with scarcely a human appearance, in the midst of chains, filth and malaria. It resembled more a menagerie of wild beasts than a

human habitation. The treatment was worse than that which was formerly inflicted on felons and traitors.—His heart melted at the sight. He threw off their chains. He comforted them by consoling language and still more by kind actions. He gave them refreshing drinks and good food. He used towards them an affable and affectionate manner, and although deprived of reason they were conscious of the benefits they had received from him, and often the poor forsaken creatures would embrace him as their only friend. This stimulated him to new exertions. From sickly, pallid and unhappy, they became healthy and cheerful, and many showed him the greatest gratitude.

The old house was a series of little cells or prisons which enclosed only the insane of the city of Palermo. A new one was built, combining in its plan all the necessary comforts. Baths were constructed and cleanliness enforced as a most important auxiliary in the treatment. The new house contained apartments for the accommodation of all the deranged persons on the island. The tranquil patients or subjects were put at work of some kind. This was and is yet the only medicinal means employed, if it may be so termed, except in cases where some physical disease is manifested. As reason is restored, and when they become capable, they are employed in various useful and responsible little offices in the house. This is found to soothe their irascibility in some instances, and in many to rouse their ambition and self-esteem.

The assistants treat them on all occasions with the utmost kindness and tenderness. The furious and raving are confined when necessary by such an overwhelming force of assistants, that they scarcely resist, and sometimes the *camicia* is used (a species of hammock), by which the person is swung from side to side in a horizontal posture; this, with the free use of cold water to the head and face, tranquillizes them after a little time, and some have become fond of it. In less than three years the success of this institution has been such that fifty-eight persons have been restored to reason and to their families.

The Baron thinks that experience has demonstrated that insanity admits only of a moral cure. He confesses he has been more and more confirmed in this opinion, the longer he has continued to have charge of the institution; and although he is aided by every needful medical advice and assistance, he regards them as secondary in the prosecution of his plan. Far from being opinionative and ostentatious, he pursues his vocation in the simple, unaffected, humble spirit, which brought both philosophy and religion from heaven to make their abode among men. Nothing rude, nothing dogmatical or overbearing, no claims to superior knowledge, no personal vanity, mark the exalted course of Pisani.

He thinks the causes of insanity generally cannot be traced to any local lesion, but that the whole nervous tissues are more or less affected. His pathological views are given with the deference due to men who have deeply studied anatomy, physiology, and everything which can elucidate this intricate subject, with the literary part of which he has taken great pains to make himself perfectly acquainted. His library contains all the most celebrated treatises in every language; and among them I had the satisfaction of seeing that of our venerable countryman, the late Doctor Rush.

In the direction, except when the physicians are consulted, he is absolute, and it is surprising to see the influence he has acquired over his subjects. He spends the whole day among them. They call him their good father. They look with impatience for his return in the morning; make their complaints to him as a child would to its parents. He hears them with attention, enters earnestly into their affairs and interests, affords relief when their grievances are well founded, reasons with them; they take his arm and walk with him, holding long conversations; they often kiss him, embrace him, and appear to adore him.

At one time he was obliged to be absent for two or three days, from indisposition; his principal assistant, on whom his duties devolved, found the people extremely restive and refractory. At last, finding the Baron was recovering, he went to him, and begged him to come down to the house, if it were only for a few minutes, that they were all in a frenzy, and, in his own language, were "raising the devil."

He hastened to the house—his return was hailed with the greatest joy, and all were emulous to show him some token of affection.

Though, as has been stated before, the means of cure employed are mainly moral, they are well furnished with both physicians and surgeons, of the most approved and extensive experience. They have four Alumni residents, besides consulting physicians and surgeons, who attend three times a week. Once a week, a meeting takes place, of the Director, a Physician and Surgeon. The Director presides. The apartments are adapted and appropriated to their various uses; a library of works on mental alienation, and every form of derangement of the intellectual and moral powers; an anatomical theatre for the examination and preparation of morbid parts of those who die in the institution; a museum for depositing interesting preparations; the sight of all these, however, is carefully concealed from the patients. The words insane, crazy, mad, are strictly prohibited being used in their hearing.

In the archives, everything is carefully preserved, the history and termination of each case.

The assistants are four Custodi (keepers), and four others, from the tranquil insane. There is a governess also, who has her assistants from the tranquil, among the females. Conciliatory persuasion and gentle means only are permitted to be used; the infamous use of the whip is not only abolished, but all harsh abuses or violent language and epithets are constantly rejected and carefully avoided.

Nothing, says the director, is more requisite than a strong force of keepers and assistants, for when it becomes necessary to resort to their aid to confine the violent and raving, if an overpowering number is sent, the patients submit without resistance, perceiving at once their inferiority; otherwise they struggle, and if not immediately overcome, it exasperates their paroxysms and efforts. Four strong, robust men, are therefore kept, who possess intelligence and discretion, to manage this description of persons. The tranquil, who are at work, receive a small compensation per month for their labor.

A chaplain performs mass daily in the Chapel, and assists the sick and dying with the comforts of religion. All ages and sexes are admitted into the house, and the best history of their cases that can be obtained,

is procured and registered. The first thing after their reception, is a good bath and a clean suit of clothes.

The physician and surgeon are sent for to examine if any personal injury has been received, and to ascertain whether or not the disease is real or simulated. A separation is then strictly enforced from all former associations. No relations or friends are suffered to see them. This is of the first importance in attempting to disentangle the confused and knotted chain of thought, and in trying to renovate by new and simple impressions the regular and healthy operations of intellect. These are not to be admitted on any account, even after signs of recovery have become apparent.

Cleanliness has been found to have a most salutary effect, producing health, cheerfulness and hilarity almost as much among maniacs as among the rational. It is also found that a frank and benevolent conduct towards them procures their confidence, and in many instances they are capable of sustaining friendship and honorable sentiments.

Nothing has been found so effectual in breaking the morbid association as labor and fatigue. Those who are sufficiently calm to work are greatly benefited by it. Occupation not only relieves the intensity of the diseased functions, but procures for them refreshing and quiet repose. The director gives the preference to agricultural labors. The garden and grounds are consequently highly cultivated and adorned. No menial service is allowed to be performed by the maniacs. On fast days and Sundays they are indulged in plays and diversions.

The whole discipline is constant, uniform, consistent and invariable. They begin with mass in the morning by the bell. Then go to work—then breakfast. They again resume their labors, and it looks more like a house of industry, than a mad-house, where almost every one is employed at some useful manual work; the men improving the grounds and planting trees; the women in spinning and knitting, and whatever they like best.

At night, when they retire, the director accompanies each one to his or her room, with the keeper, bestows some kind words and little caresses on them, asks if they want anything, and promises them everything that will be good for them, and bids them an affectionate good night.

The *Canicia de forza*, already spoken of, is sometimes used when they refuse to work from perverseness. The tepid bath is also used to allay irritation.

When convalescence commences, as discerned by the return of the person to old habits, desire to see relations and friends, knowledge of objects and fears of again falling into insanity, the patient is immediately removed to another apartment and a new train of treatment commences.

The sufferings of the unhappy beings may be imagined by the fears they express of relapsing. They are at first entrusted with the care of their clothes and such other little things as are found to occupy and amuse the mind. They next receive the visits of the keepers, and are made as happy as possible by every indulgence that will divert them. They walk in the flower gardens, but are not permitted to see or hear an insane person. Care is also taken to avoid receiving premature visits

from relations and friends. No unnecessary or impertinent visits are allowed to them in this condition.

The incessant agitation attending on mental alienation produces in many cases insatiable voracity. In order to appease this as much as possible, a large proportion of bread is given them; thirty ounces in three portions daily. They have soup for breakfast—for supper fruit, salad, &c.; rice, cheese, and macaroni are also freely allowed them. They have five ounces of meat, five days in the week. Mush is an article of diet much used by them. Beer and wine in small quantities are used in certain cases. Boarders are allowed coffee and all other luxuries of which they are fond, and to which they have been accustomed, provided they have not been found injurious.

While I remained in the house several little incidents occurred, illustrative of the Baron's manner towards his people, and method of treatment. As we passed along, a soldier still attached to, and wearing his old uniform coat, of large stature and veteran appearance, was sitting on a stone bench which projected from a wall perpendicular to it. He leaned forward with his elbows on his knees, covering his cheeks with his hands in a melancholy posture enough. The Baron perhaps thought he was musing too deeply, and that he would try and break up his "thick coming fancies." He raised the soldier with his hands into a more erect position on the bench. He kept himself carefully for a few seconds in the attitude in which the Baron had placed him. The Baron then took him by the breast of his coat and gently pushed him until his back was perpendicular to the wall, which made his posture very disagreeable and painful. He remained however even in this ludicrous situation for an instant, but then jumping up quite in a passion he told the Baron, "it is impossible for any one to sit that way, you could not sit that way yourself." The director laughed a little, and the soldier marched off with great dignity. In this case the director might at first have been taken for the maniac, and the soldier for the rational man. But mark what a great end was accomplished by this simple stratagem. The fast binding chain of melancholy was suddenly broken, and a new and rational train of thought irresistibly substituted.

He says the women are vastly more difficult to manage than the men, of which we had an immediate proof in passing through the female apartment. The room was spacious and airy, the inmates chiefly employed in preparing and spinning flax. One among them was in a dreadful paroxysm of rage and frenzy at some imaginary affront. She had a natural deformity of the head. Her forehead was nearly twice the natural height, and so was the top of her head. Her eyes were large and dark. Her person spare and of the middle size. Her appearance was frightful—and she had a terrible tongue, which on such occasions nothing could quiet. She went on with loud volubility,—scolding in *alta voce* at those who had offended her, and was not even restrained this time in the slightest degree by the presence or remonstrances of the Baron.

Those who were at work seemed alarmed and ashamed of their noisy companion, and several of them begged her to be quiet and behave better. The nurse, and a little girl of about twelve or thirteen (one of the assistants), of great beauty and intelligence, stood beside the maniac as

she made the house ring with her terrifying denunciations. The nurse and little girl were trying to pacify her—she refused to hear them, and even the mild voice of the Baron was for awhile disregarded. The little girl patted her cheeks—put her hand gently over her mouth ;—she struggled to get her mouth free. The little girl kissed her on the cheek—she continued to bawl with a voice scarcely human. Her little friend would catch her by the nose, and again put her arm gently round her neck and kiss her ; and after keeping up this badinage for about five minutes, laughing and talking kindly to her all the time, the maniac became more tranquil—the fierceness left her face, and she began to smile and then to laugh, but soon became nearly as bad as ever. The Baron told her she must go to the Camicia. To this she objected, and became more quiet. He then offered her his arm, which she put her hand in and went along with him, still scolding and complaining, but in a moderated tone. Having arrived at the swinging hammock, a strong man lifted her in, when she was laced tight so as to prevent any motion of her arms or legs. Her head was wet with cold water ; she was given some to drink ; the little girl and nurse threw some in her face, and swung her a good while from side to side. It seemed to affect her head ; she roiled her eyes and was silent. In a few minutes she was entirely quiet : the little girl again patted her cheek and kissed it. We left her and walked round the garden. After a while we returned and took a seat under the shade. While there the woman approached us, and I could see the little girl telling her that she must make friends with her benefactor. She accordingly came up behind the Baron in a fine humor, and laughingly put her arms round his neck and kissed his cheek, appearing to feel contrition for her former conduct. He turned his head and smiled on her with great tenderness, as if nothing had happened, but said nothing to her, and she went away with her attendants to the apartment they had left.

The Baron relates a singular cure which he effected a few years ago by a simple little stratagem which suddenly occurred to him at the time. A woman, on becoming deranged, had resolved never to quit a certain position which she had taken, which was stooping down as low as she could but still resting on her feet. This bent her knees to the utmost degree ; but in this way she continued long after she was brought to the house. She had continued for ten years without extending her lower extremities. When she came under his charge, he long tried to awaken her sensibility on some subject, without success. At length, he went to visit her one morning, and told her that he had come to the determination no longer to lead a life of celibacy, and had now come to ask her hand in marriage. She was at first indignant and requested him not to make fun of her. He pressed his suit with so much earnestness and with so many compliments, that at length she showed some attention to his conversation. He became more eloquent with his arguments for their union, and at last she smiled. It was the first time for ten years. She became more cheerful, laughed a little, and finally consented to marry him. The next day was appointed for the solemnization of the nuptials. All the tranquil insane were invited to the wedding. She was dressed and decorated like a bride, and then carried to an elegant arbor where a feast was prepared for all the guests. One of the keepers was dressed

as the Padre, a counterfeit ceremony was performed, and they all paid her the most particular marks of respect and congratulation, giving her the title she had acquired of Baroness. She tried to walk, but was unable to straighten her knees. The tendons in the hams had become stiff and contracted. She was carried, and placed at his right hand at dinner.

From this time her recovery commenced. By the employment of liniments, frictions and exercise, the use of her limbs was gradually restored, and she is now an intelligent and respectable lady of Sicily, who often laughs with the Baron, whom she calls her *esposo*, at the amusing freak of the marriage ceremony.

This renowned ancient state boasted of many great names, distinguished, and still known to the civilized world, for their genius, learning and patriotism. But there is a halo of moral sublimity now surrounding a modest and humble individual in Palermo, which not even the glories of Archimedes could shed—that man is Peter Pisani.

TIGHT LACING.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—A case of no ordinary character has of late come under my observation, and which, to say the least, has afforded subject matter for reflection, relative to the practice above-named. From a careful *manual examination* of the existing case, it appears that a complete *groove* or *excavation* around the body has been formed, and by the practice alluded to ; and which it becomes difficult to account for, upon any other supposition than that of *absorption*, and such as must necessarily prove prejudicial to health. That such an effect may be occasioned by *continued pressure* would seem to be admitted ; but how it could take place to so great an extent without a still more serious derangement of the vital functions, becomes a matter of serious inquiry. It was evident, however, from *inspection*, that the *mammary glands* were diminished, and the chest considerably *contracted*. This being the case, how could it be otherwise than that *sterility* should follow as a natural consequence ?

Much has been written and said upon two sorts of *absorption* ; viz. that which takes place from *surfaces*, and that which takes place in the *living solid*, and in the *internal substance* of organs. In the case before us, the materials taken up were not properly or really replaced, and a vitiated action produced an *atrophy* of the parts ; and consequently, there was a gradual or continual diminution of the *pectoral muscles*, and of the *fatty matter* of the *cellular texture*. The *superficial veins* were probably in some degree diminished in volume, and the circulation retarded ; but whether the chain of the *lymphatics* could be said to be broken or not, would be matter of inquiry.

As this is a subject of a delicate nature, and one that a *country practitioner* would be less likely to meet with, it is possible that in attempting to explain it by way of *absorption*, the undersigned has done no better than expose his ignorance, and want of experience ; but let it be as it may, he would humbly hope that the bare suggestion may serve to invite

the attention of the faculty to the matter, and induce them to raise their warning voice against a practice that is, to say the least, extremely unbecoming.

The *circular pressure* of the above-named practice (as we at present understand it), occasions an *absorption* that prevents the *deposition of new matter necessary to supply the waste*.

I feel much indebted, dear Sir, for the notice that is taken, in the *Journal*, of the small scrips that fall from my pen ; but if I can at least turn the attention of my medical friends or others to the consideration of subjects which appear to me to be of growing importance, I shall feel myself amply rewarded. I must say that I am much pleased with your *Journal*.

H. F.

Longwood, Va. March 15, 1835.

P. S. I am at present a convert to the doctrine of the *absorption of the lungs*, whereby poisonous substances, and even the *effluvia of marshes*, may be introduced into the circulation. As soon as an opportunity presents itself, I design to prepare, and send you, an essay upon the subject of *malaria*. I have not had the good fortune, yet, to lay my hand upon an essay that I understand the celebrated *Mugendie* has lately produced upon *absorption*. I should be pleased to see the essay itself, or the sum and substance of it, in your *Journal*.

REMARKS ON FEVERS, WITH CASES.

BY JOSEPH COMSTOCK, M.D. OF LEBANON, CONNECTICUT.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

FEBRILE affections are so immensely diversified, that even to give such a definition of *fever*, as will embrace all their diversities, is not an easy task. A frequent pulse, and increased temperature, though common in most cases, fail in some. At this time the writer has a patient, a man of 71, in which both these signs are lacking, although he has hiccups and a very foul tongue. It is a case of *lung fever*. A furred tongue, however, sometimes fails of accompanying very bad cases of fever. Nor does pain of the head, back, or any other part, nor thirst, attend every patient, even when his case may be an alarming one. Extreme thirst, as when the sick exclaim, "Oh ! I could drink the Delaware," is mentioned by Dr. Rush as a very dangerous symptom. Thirst, however, is a symptom in fever far less common than formerly. In a large majority of cases (I speak of course of my own patients), for the last twenty years, this formerly common sign of pyrexia has been absent, or seldom so intense as to be even mentioned. But for the above period, the typhoid diathesis has mostly prevailed ; and in fevers of the typhous kind there is less thirst than in those of an inflammatory character.

In the past winter, however, although the present writer has had several cases of typhous fever, and a greater number of its kindred disease,

scarlet fever, with sore throat,* yet a highly inflammatory diathesis, with pneumonic affections, has been most prevalent. Thirst has returned, and the lancet been frequently drawn, which during the typhoid diathesis was seldom unsheathed. Chills have also been more common than in the atatic fevers of past years.

But here has been one irregular symptom accompanying a number of cases, which was a *sweat* rather profuse and universal, at the first commencement of the fever. In one case this sudoresis lasted a week, and I was inclined to view the patient in a typhoid state; when without exposure to cold, or any other evident cause, the sweat ceased and inflammatory fever succeeded, requiring three bleedings to subdue it. And never did I witness a buff whiter, thicker, or more cupped, than the second parce of blood exhibited.

It is very prettily and justly remarked by Dr. Good, that no writer has hitherto been able to satisfy himself with his own definition of fever, and that therefore it is not extraordinary that he should not be able to satisfy others. This difficulty arises from there being few if any one of its symptoms constantly present in every case. The pulse, instead of being more frequent in every case, is, as he remarks from Dr. Musgrave, sometimes actually slower; and in the instance referred to, was (until after the patient was bled) down to 44 in a minute, in a patient with yellow fever.

I am not certain, however, that there is not a single trait in every case of fever which will distinguish it from all other diseases, and prove this much, but no more, that it is a *fever*. *This is a febrile effluvium cognizable by the smell.* This olfactory feature will even partially serve, in some instances, to distinguish one febrile affection from another. Typhous fever has the smell of mice or conium. Smallpox and measles have each their peculiar smell. It is not probable, however, that this discriminating test can be carried through as it relates to all fevers, but only so far as to distinguish all febrile affections from those which are unattended with fever. But he who should be able to tell the *cause* of fevers, would be a benefactor to mankind immensely more praiseworthy and invaluable than he who can define them.

The summary method of our transatlantic brethren of referring typhous fever, scarlet fever, and dysentery, to contagion, we cannot respond to. In the former, my experience has reached to at least seven hundred cases; the spontaneous origin of which, and the non-communication of it to nurses, attendants, members of the same family, and to myself, who never had it, have been so palpable, as to induce me to look for its causes to some other source. In scarlet fever, the present season, two children had it in a family of seven children; the first being a child four years old, who had been no where to contract it, and it was not in the neighborhood. One other child had a fever and swelled throat, without eruption. The other four had nothing at all of it. Yet Dr. Good, in his definition of this disease, says that it is "highly contagious."

* A case of the scarlet fever occurred in December, which was, according to Sir Gilbert Blane and Dr. Good, singular, as to the patient's age. This case was that of a woman in married life, 40 years old. She lived at the distance of seven or eight miles, and was dead before my arrival. I saw the corpse. The external parts of the throat, neck, and about the clavicles, were mortified.

Every principal viscus has a healthy action peculiar to itself, and also a diseased or morbid state, or deranged motion. This morbid state includes torpor, the extreme degree of which is *paralysis*, either partial or total, of a fibre, tendon, muscle, or viscus. We will refer to an instance illustrating both a state of extreme torpor, or paralysis of the stomach, &c. and also a change of diathesis from putrid to inflammatory.

A girl, six years old, had putrid sore throat, with such a paralysis of the vocal organs that her voice was reduced to a whisper. In six days the putrid and febrile symptoms were subdued by the assiduous administration of antiseptic febrifuges, such as quinine internally, poultices of Peruvian bark externally, and the exhibition of calomel, tincture of sanguinaria (U. States Pharmacopœia), hydriodate of potash, snaka, and squills. She was dismissed as out of danger. Four days afterwards, however (March 4, 1835), I was summoned again, and found that the croup, with all its horrors, had invaded, with high inflammatory symptoms, which required two bleedings. But the torpor of the stomach was most surprising. The emetic doses were gradually increased, till thirty grains of ipecac. with two grains of tartarized antimony were given for a dose, without the effect of exciting anything more than very slight and inadequate emesis. The tincture of lobelia (of the U. S. Pharmacopœia) was then resorted to, with more effect; but although by this, in a dose of ʒiij., she was relieved, the emetic operation was but moderate.

As ascertaining the prevailing diathesis of any particular period appears to be a very important desideratum, the following case seems to be appropriate. By it, as well as by the one just related, it appears that the epidemic constitution of the atmosphere may so change, as to alter the diathesis of a patient's disease in the same fit of sickness.

Mrs. B. was delivered of her first child by a female practitioner, January 8th. The child was unhealthy, bloody serum issued from its mouth and nostrils, and it died the next day. Three days afterwards I was called to visit the mother. She had fever, with a disposition to copious sweats, and a hard and tender spot, of the size of the hand, on the left side of the hypogastric region, without, however, any general inflation. Lochia very offensive, but from first to last copious. Chills slight, no puking, pulse about 120, lacteal secretion not diminished. Pain in the back and head, but not severe; slight pains in the thighs. I did not see the midwife, but was informed that the placenta was not easily nor speedily extracted. Was a part of it retained? I have reason so to think. The fever ran a course of three weeks, without any material variation from the above symptoms, except that the discharge *per vaginam*, towards the close of this period, lost its fetor, and became sanguineous, with remission of the febrile symptoms. Secretion of milk not diminished. *Treatment*, during this period—febrifuges, diaphoretics, viz. Dover's powders, which were used for the purpose, and had the effect, of diminishing and finally checking her debilitating sweats.

Jan. 28.—Febrile symptoms so far abated that bark, catechu, and Port wine, were directed.

Feb. 10.—Pulse quick, soreness and hardness of the left hypogastrium gone; but directly above the pubes, the same affection, with increased tenderness, and a new symptom, viz. extreme pain in passing water. In-

crease of colored evacuations *per vaginam*, amounting to as much as at the catamenial period, commenced just about four weeks from the time of parturition. Milk, as before, plentiful.

13.—She suffers more from passing urine than she did from the birth of her child ! Yet it could hardly be called a strangury, because she did not urinate often, nor in small quantity. Laid aside bark, wine, and cat-echu ; put her upon demulcents, with spt. niuri dul. and bled from the arm eight ounces.

14.—Pain in the pubic region so severe as to require from 1-4 to 1-2 a grain of sulphate of morphia, repeated once or twice in 24 hours, to control it. Urine not remarkably high colored, but containing mucus as thick as the mother of vinegar. Case now, evidently, an inflammation, and a severe one, of the neck of the bladder. No nausea, however, nor emesis. No hysteria. The patient can touch no sore spot in the passages.

15.—Calomel, 20 grains, followed by full doses of sulphate of magnesia.

16.—Operated sparingly. Abdomen and hypogastrium very hot, but not tumefied. Solution of camphor externally, was applied.

17.—Bled to 320. Blood covered with a thick white pellicle, or buff. Next morning very much cupped.

19.—Symptoms still continue. Bled 314.

20.—The patient is pale, with slight nervous symptoms and despondency. Demulcents and cooling deobstruents ; anodynes and febrifuges continued.

23.—The heat and febrile symptoms abated. Debility and paleness, considerable. Less distress in urinating. Had a consultation with his Excellency Gov. Peters, M.D. of Hebron, who saw the patient, and expressed his approbation of the general mode of treatment. He recommended demulcents, *pro injectio per vaginam*, in addition to her other remedies.

28.—Former distressing symptoms abated. She now complains, and it is her chief complaint, of a sore mouth ; from what cause is very obscure, for she has no signs of salivation, no aphthæ, no sloughs, nor redness of the parts complained of, nor the least swelling nor ulceration. The last time she complained of this singular soreness it was in the joints of her jaws. I on the whole referred it to one of the forms of hydra-headed hysteria, of which, considering the parts affected, and the probability of there having been, along with the vesical inflammation, a like affection of the uterus, she has been remarkably free.

March 1.—Put her upon the supporting plan, with small doses of bark, and allowed a teaspoonful of wine, and no more, two or three times a day.

5.—All her former symptoms abated, and a new one commenced, viz. *piles*, both bleeding and blind. Pain intense, hæmorrhage considerable. Prescribed sublimed sulphur, with super tartrate of potash.

16.—Recovered, and free from complaint.

Remarks. In bleeding Mrs. B. I deviated from all my former practice, she being the first and only puerperal patient which I ever bled ; for I never adopted fully the opinion of Denman, that this evacuation was

proper in common cases of puerperal fever. This case, however, was to me a novel one, and I resorted freely to that evacuation, from its symptoms, and its propriety has been justified by the event. Had I not bled at all, or *bled less*, the termination of this violent inflammation would have probably been in *abscess*.

[To be continued.]

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"THE CYCLOPÆDIA OF PRACTICAL MEDICINE AND SURGERY;

A DIGEST OF MEDICAL LITERATURE, EDITED BY ISAAC HAYS, M.D. PHILADELPHIA."

OUR readers are aware that this work is in course of publication in Parts containing about 112 pages each. Five of them constitute a good-sized octavo. The fifth number was published in September last, and completes the first volume. We are thus presented with ample materials for judging of the general character of the work; and although it may be considered a digression in us to call to it the attention of our readers, we feel it due to the highly respectable list of contributors, to give it at least a passing notice. We are the more desirous to do this, in consequence of its being the first attempt ever made in America to "present a digest of the existing state of knowledge on all the branches of the healing art." The importance and magnitude of the undertaking can only be appreciated by the profession. Such works have contributed largely to the advancement of medical science in Europe, and several on a similar plan are now in course of publication in France, Germany and Great Britain.

We have long desired an American Cyclopædia of Medicine. The progress of medical science in this country has suffered materially for want of proper books of reference. The rich contributions which the medical sciences have received from the discoveries of the 19th century are scattered over innumerable monographs, many of which are written in foreign languages, and accessible comparatively to but few. It is a lamentable fact, that we know of no popular work in the United States to which we could refer for a detailed account of the existing state of medical knowledge. The text books of the schools are too elementary; and although it may appear invidious, we are bound to confess that nearly all our systematic works are crowded with nosological arrangements, details of symptoms, or a long catalogue of remedials, without giving the reader that philosophical and practical information which the present elevated condition of the science would suggest. This circumstance may be attributed in a great measure to their being very generally written by single individuals, whose unaided efforts, however just and meritorious, are seldom, if ever, adequate to the magnitude of the undertaking. A single branch or a single subject is often as much as the genius of one man can master. Medical science for the last half century has progressed with such amazing rapidity, that it requires no ordinary industry to keep pace with its improvements. We trust the time has passed when the metaphysical dogmas of the schools retarded its progress, by occupying the partizans of the different sects in unprofitable disquisitions upon their truth or

plausibility. The inductive philosophy has dispelled these barriers to its progress; facts have supplied the place of hypothesis, and under the guidance of a philosophical experience, medicine is advancing towards that certainty and precision which characterize the demonstrative sciences.

From the tenor of the prospectus issued by the publishers of the Cyclopædia, we were induced to believe that most of the articles would be compiled from similar European publications; but we are happy to pay the publishers the rare compliment of having accomplished more than they had pledged themselves to perform. The present volume is made up of original communications from distinguished medical men in different parts of the United States, and we have no doubt that its national character will continue to be preserved. The name of the author is appended to each article, and the writer is thus made responsible for his opinions.

The Cyclopædia of Practical Medicine and Surgery is on a much larger scale than the London work of the same name. In its general arrangement, and in the character of its articles, it bears a greater analogy to the Dictionnaire de Medecine et de Chirurgie Pratique. Copland's Dictionary, now in course of republication in this city, is inferior to the Cyclopædia in point of size. The letter A, in the former, occupies only 162 pages; whilst in the latter work, 560 pages have not completed the articles under that head further than *Angina Pectoris*.

But it is not in size, only, that this work bears comparison with European ones; we believe that it is not surpassed by any similar publication in purity of style, soundness of reasoning, and useful practical information. However others may be disposed to differ from us in this unqualified encomium, of one fact we are very confident, viz. that the American Cyclopædia of Practical Medicine and Surgery, from the circumstance of its being adapted to the state of medical science in this country, is much more valuable to the American practitioner.

It would afford us pleasure to give an analysis of its contents, for many of the articles are interesting and highly instructive to the general reader; but we are in danger of transcending our limits, and must beg leave merely to advert to the manner in which some of the writers have executed their task.

The arrangement reflects great credit upon its learned editor, Dr. I. Hays. His pen has supplied many of the most valuable and important papers; amongst which are Amaurosis, Abstinence, Abdominal Pulsations, Influence of Air upon the Tissues, &c. His explanations of medical terms and technicalities, a very laborious part of the work, are given with clearness and accuracy.

Dr. Geddings, of Baltimore, has contributed very largely to the first volume. We have read the articles having his signature with interest and instruction. They are characterized by soundness of reasoning; and the comprehensive manner in which he has described many obscure points in special and surgical anatomy, indicates a thorough practical knowledge of the subject. See Anatomy of Abdomen, Amputation, Anatomy, &c. &c.

The surgical parts of the article Abdomen are written by Dr. R. Coates. He has also contributed some valuable observations under the head of Adhesion. The writings of this gentleman are plain and practical; they evince considerable research, and are evidently the production of a philosophical mind. His style in these articles is precise and systematic, to a degree that we should scarcely have anticipated from one who has occasionally pleased us by his imaginative writings. Medical authors are

particularly careless here. We find some describing the most simple facts with an ostentatious display of words and metaphors; whilst others are so desultory and verbose that it is really painful to follow them. Were we disposed to carp, we might find fault with the style of two or three of the writers of the *Cyclopædia*. But they are rather guilty of inelegances than actual faults, which there is no time at present for noticing.

The numerous contributions of Dr. G. B. Wood by no means detract from his just reputation as a writer on *Materia Medica*. The article *Aloes* is decidedly the best we have seen upon that subject.

Dr. Dewees is so well known as a writer upon *Obstetrics* and the *Diseases of Females*, that it is unnecessary to eulogize his essays: yet, as an author, he is no favorite of ours.

The medico-legal remarks of Dr. Griffiths are judicious. His *Acclimatement* contains much useful and interesting matter. He writes in a happy style, and has contributed a number of medico-botanical articles that will be read with interest.

Dr. T. Harris is the author of a long and able dissertation, under the head of *Abscess*.

The articles *Absorption*, *Alteratives*, and *Anemia*, are written by Dr. Samuel Jackson. They present the reader with a lucid view of the existing state of our knowledge upon the subjects on which they treat, and contain some highly important original remarks, illustrated by cases which have come under the author's personal observation. The writings of Dr. J. are particularly worthy of notice, being both pertinent and logical.

Most of the subjects relating to *Chemistry* are from the pen of Dr. Bache. They are all written with that accuracy and clearness for which Dr. B. is remarkable. We are also indebted to him for an interesting article on *Acupuncture*.

Most of the contributions of Dr. Emerson are on cutaneous diseases. He has evidently paid considerable attention to affections of the skin. He has also written on *Affusion*. His style is terse and lucid.

Dr. Condie, well known to the profession as a writer, is the author of several well written physiological and pathological articles. Under the head of *Ages*, he has given an elaborate account of the "several stages through which the human body passes during its progressive development and subsequent decay, from the period of birth to that of its final dissolution." This is an important communication, and contains much to interest the general reader.

Dr. Warren, of Boston, has given some judicious observations on the action of air when admitted into the veins.

We are indebted to Dr. Horner for *Ambulance* and *Anchylosis*. Under the latter head we have a supplementary communication from Dr. J. R. Barton, confirmatory of the success of his celebrated operation for *anchylosis* of the hip joint.

Aneurism is from the pen of Dr. Hodge. He has done ample justice to the importance of the subject, and excepting some little inelegances in diction, it is perhaps the most finished production upon *aneurism* which has appeared in this country.

The volume closes by a communication from Dr. Chapman on *Angina Pectoris*. He has given a graphical account of the disease, and his views of its pathology and treatment are illustrated by a number of cases.

We have thus presented our readers with a hasty glance at the contents of the first volume. We fear that on the present occasion we may be suspected of having acted the part of lenient critics : and if we have not been sufficiently censorious, we can offer to our readers no better apology than that we have endeavored candidly and dispassionately to canvass its merits. On consulting the list of contributors there are noticed the names of many individuals whose efforts are yet to be called forth. With such aid always available, the *Cyclopædia* cannot fail to succeed; and we confidently look forward to the result of their united exertions, as calculated to promote the cause of science, and the medical literature of our country.

Berkshire Medical Institution.—An unsuccessful appeal was made the last week, by the corporation, to the Massachusetts legislature, now in session, to obtain pecuniary relief. The committee, of whom Dr. Lewis, of Boston, was one, were impressed with the necessity of granting the institution one thousand dollars, annually, for five years, which would have enabled the trustees to have paid off the debts and put the public buildings in good condition.

Jefferson Medical College.—On the 12th of March, the degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred on fifty-eight gentlemen : two hundred and thirty-three attended the lectures of the institution. This great class is certainly an evidence of the estimation in which the college is held by those who are competent to decide upon it.

An excellent Regulation.—The Board of Trustees of the House of Correction at South Boston, adverted to in the last Number of the Journal, have ordered that whenever a convict is received at that institution, he shall be examined by the physician, and if not vaccinated, the operation is required to be performed. We trust this excellent regulation will obtain at all prisons throughout the United States.

Cholera at Martinique.—Capt. Smith, of the schooner Northampton, 13 days from St. Barts, informs that the Cholera had made its appearance at Martinique. A vessel which arrived at St. Barts from that place, was not permitted to enter.

Smallpox.—This loathsome disease exists to a considerable extent in New Orleans. We understand it has also shown itself at South Reading, Mass. the last week, in two individuals. The physicians are meeting the danger, promptly, by vaccination.

Medical Jurisprudence.—Notice has been given that Dr. T. R. Beck, of Albany, N. Y. is preparing a second edition of his work on Medical Jurisprudence, which was well received by the medical public a few years since.—The Catechism of Medical Jurisprudence, by Dr. Williams, appears to meet the approbation of the class of readers for whom it was designed, and the sales will probably be fully equal to the expectations of the publisher.

Medical Students.—It was our intention to have given, this month, a statement of the number of medical students attending lectures in the United States the present winter; but our returns being incomplete, we merely state that it does not fall far short of 2,500.

It may appear strange that the Transylvania University, situated in the interior of the country, more than 500 miles west of Philadelphia, should rank, in point of number, second in our country; and in its ability as regards professors, we believe it will stand a fair comparison with any similar institution.

The printed circular for this winter presents a list of the names of 255 students, and as the names and residence of their respective preceptors are given, the catalogue must be correct.—*U. S. Med. and Surg. Journ.*

THE third and last paper of our correspondent W. on Masturbation, came too late for the present number. We rejoice that the melancholy effects of this vicious habit have been thus described by one so well qualified to exhibit them in their true light, and we hope that knowledge so important to many out of the profession will not be confined to the pages of the Journal.

The name of W. G. Dickinson, M.D. Franklin, Tenn. was accidentally omitted last week in our list of agents.

DIED—In Brunswick, Vt. Dr. Solomon Heaton, aged 65.—In Hartland, Vt. Dr. Rufus Wheeler, of Plainfield, N. H. 74.—In Exeter, Va. Dr. Wilson C. Selden, a surgeon in the revolutionary army, aged 74.—In New Gloucester, Me. Joel S. Stevens, M.D. an amiable man and good physician, aged 35.

Whole number of deaths in Boston for the week ending March 28, 29. Males, 18—Females, 11. Of consumption, 8—lung fever, 5—inflammatory fever, 1—infantile, 1—erysipelas, 1—typhous fever, 1—old age, 2—apoplexy, 3—sudden, 1—scarlet fever, 1—dropsy, 1—palsy, 1—epilepsy, 1—liver complaint, 1—fits, 1.

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Boston, April 1, 1835.

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Boston, January, 1835.

(Jan. 6—tf.)

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